



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Saturday*  
*17 April 1982*

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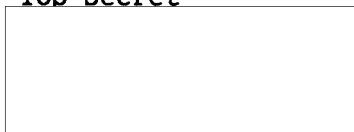
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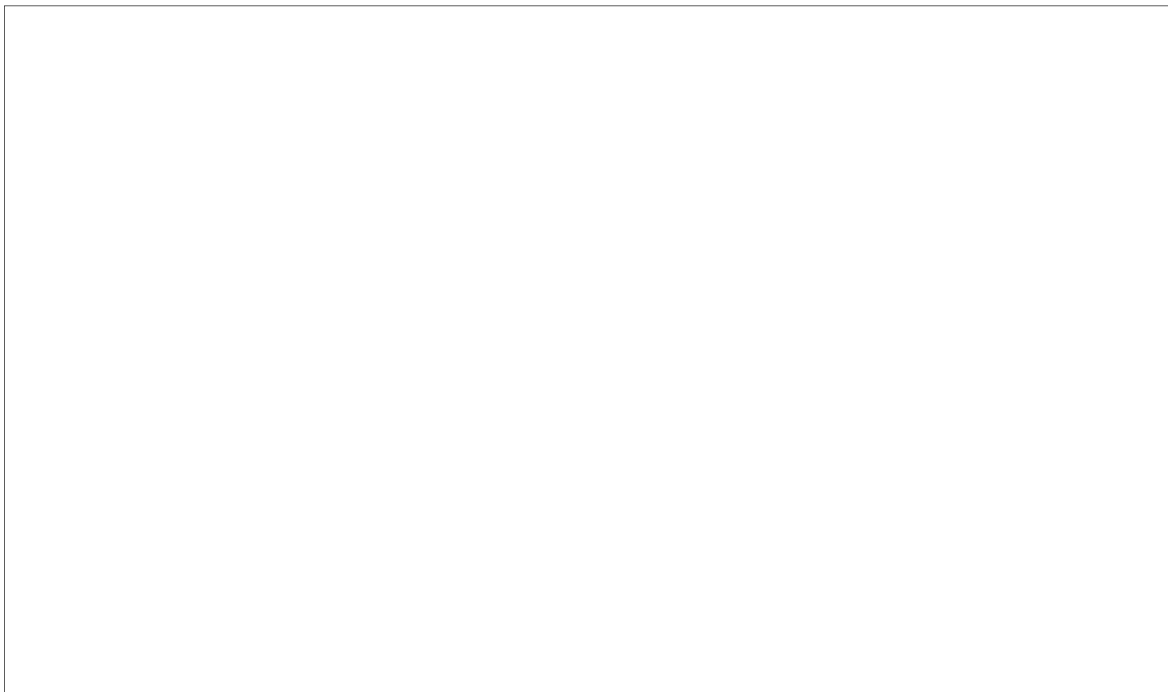
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ISRAEL-LEBANON-SYRIA: Status of Forces

*New evidence shows that the Israeli buildup in northern Israel is somewhat larger than previously estimated, but the alert status of Israeli forces seems to have decreased.*

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DIA

The introduction of additional armored, infantry, and artillery units since the buildup began almost two weeks ago gives the Israelis a total force strength of 25,000 to 27,000 in the north. Most of these units came from southern Israel.

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DIA

Prime Minister Begin reiterated to US officials yesterday that Israel would continue to exercise restraint. He warned, however, that any resumption of shelling of northern Israel and shedding of Israeli blood would result in retaliation.

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Comment: Israeli forces in northern Israel now are larger by several thousand troops than those involved in the operation in March 1978 that extended to the Litani River. The size of the current buildup suggests that this time Israel's military planners are considering an invasion of southern Lebanon to the Zaharani River and possibly beyond. It probably also reflects increased Israeli concern over Syria's intentions and the need to have adequate forces on the Golan to defend against a possible Syrian attack.

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